

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 8-23, and 28-37 remain in the application.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18-23, 32, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Quartarone (U.S. Patent 5,104,514) in view of J. Linke ("Behavior of boron-doped graphites ...", hereafter Linke).

The rejection of Claim 13 is traversed. This claim requires that a second portion of the substrate surface is free of the anodization layer but that the boron carbide be deposited on both the anodized first portion and the non-anodized second portion. In contrast, Quartarone makes no mention of anodizing only a portion of his torpedo surface and his wet anodizing step described at col. 3, ll. 25-34 tends to anodize all surfaces unless special precautions are employed. Further, Quartarone's brief references to the ceramic layer, e.g. "a ceramic material is sprayed onto the anodized surface," (col. 2, ll. 23, 24) and also at col. 4, ll. 38-36), include no description of coating his ceramic layer onto both anodized and non-anodized portions of the torpedo surface.

Claim 16 has been amended to further distinguish Quartarone. In particular, Quartarone fails to disclose roughening only a portion of the substrate but depositing a ceramic on both anodized portions and unanodized but roughened portions.

The rejection of Claim 32 is traversed. The Examiner seems to be reading the claim more broadly than intended. To clarify the meaning, Claim 32 has been amended to require that not all of a principal surface substrate is roughened. In contrast, Quartarone's description of abrading at col. 2, ll. 29-46 does not mention abrading of only portions of the principal surface.

Claim 1 has been amended to require that not all of the surface has been roughened but that the boron carbide be deposited on both roughened and unroughened portions. Claim 1 has been further amended to remove the upper limit on the surface roughness, which limitation is

reintroduced in newly added Claim 34. Quartarone does not describe such selective roughening as recited in the amended claim nor does he describe depositing his ceramic layer on roughened and non-roughened portions. New dependent Claims 35-37 have been added for structures supported in FIG. 5.

The remaining claims of this rejection depend from claims believed to be in allowable form so they also should be allowed.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Quartarone, in view of Linke and further in view of Kizawa (JP 63-203098). This claim however is dependent upon a claim believed to be in allowable form and should therefore also be allowable.

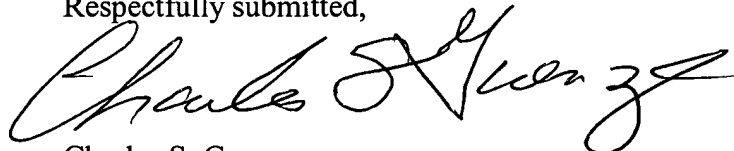
The Examiner has indicated that Claims 2, 3, 8-11, 17, and 28-31 are allowed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be helpful, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number, which is on California time.

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